

were possibly only geographical developments, but others represented distinct types not very nearly allied to any known species.

Mr. F. E. BEDDARD, M.A., F.R.S., F.Z.S., Prosector to the Society, read a paper dealing with certain points in the anatomy of the Frog *Megalophrys* (*Leptobrachium*) *feæ*, based on specimens which had been exhibited in the Society's Gardens.

Mr. BEDDARD also read a paper on the Spermatophores in Earthworms of the genus *Pheretima* (= *Perichaeta*). These structures had been found in two species, one of which would be described as new, contained in a collection of terrestrial Oligochaeta from the Philippine Islands, which had been submitted to him for examination by the Director of the Scientific Bureau of the Philippines.

Mr. R. LYDEKKER communicated two short papers entitled (a) "A Rare Beaked Whale," and (b) "Age Phases of the Rorqual."

Dr. P. CHALMERS MITCHELL, M.A., F.R.S., Secretary of the Society, gave an account of his memoir entitled "On Longevity and relative Viability in Mammals and Birds; with a Note on the Theory of Longevity." The work was based on a study of the records of the duration of life in the Society's Gardens of over 20,000 individual Mammals and Birds. These were arranged systematically so as to make possible a comparison of the average duration with the maximum duration and what was known or could be inferred as to the potential longevity. Such a method gave a measure of the effect of the conditions of captivity on the duration of life. The memoir discussed some of the results obtained by such a comparison, particularly with regard to the provision of artificial heat. In the note on the Theory of Longevity, the author briefly reviewed the contributions of Ray Lankester, Weismann, and Metchnikoff, and stated his conclusion that potential longevity was due to constitutional causes, that the constitution was adapted to the average specific longevity, and that the correlation between longevity and reproduction was the reverse of what had been suggested by Weismann.

The next Meeting of the Society for Scientific Business will be held on Tuesday, March 21st, 1911, at half-past Eight o'clock P.M., when the following communications will be made:—

1. MRS. E. W. SEXTON.

On the Amphipod Genus *Leptocheirus*.

2. J. LEWIS BONHOTE, M.A., F.L.S., F.Z.S., and F. W. SMALLEY,
F.Z.S.

On Colour and Colour-pattern Inheritance in Pigeons.

3. G. STEWARDSON BRADY, M.D., LL.D., D.Sc., F.R.S., C.M.Z.S.

Notes on Marine Ostracoda from Madeira.

The following communications have been received:—

1. WILLIAM NICOLL, M.A., D.Sc., M.B.

On Three new Trematodes from Reptiles.

2. J. A. MÖRCH.

On the Natural History of Whalebone Whales.

Communications intended for the Scientific Meetings should be addressed to

P. CHALMERS MITCHELL,

Secretary.

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON,
REGENT'S PARK, LONDON, N.W.

March 14th, 1911.

MOTOR 'BUSES FOR THE SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS.

On the night of each Scientific Meeting Motor 'Buses will run direct to the Gardens from Regent's Park Tube Station, starting at 8.5 and 8.20 p.m. The return 'buses after the Meeting will leave the Gardens at 10.30 and 10.45 p.m. These 'buses will be labelled PRIVATE and no fare will be charged to Fellows attending the Meetings.

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NOTICE.

The 'Proceedings' for the year are issued in *four* parts, paged consecutively, so that the complete reference is now P. Z. S. 1911, p. . . . The Distribution is as follows:—

Part 1	issued in	March.
„ 2	„	June.
„ 3	„	September.
„ 4	„	December.

'Proceedings,' 1910, Part IV. (pp. 837-1033), were published on
January 11th, 1911.

The 'Abstracts of the Proceedings,' Nos. 87-92,
are contained in this Part.

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
GENERAL MEETINGS FOR SCIENTIFIC BUSINESS
OF THE
ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY
OF LONDON.

1911.

PART II.

CONTAINING PAGES 181 TO 555, WITH 15 PLATES
AND 93 TEXT-FIGURES.

JUNE 1911.

PRINTED FOR THE SOCIETY,
SOLD AT THEIR HOUSE IN REGENT'S PARK.

LONDON:
MESSRS. LONGMANS, GREEN, AND CO.,
PATERNOSTER ROW.

[Price Twelve Shillings.]

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SEP 28 1911

Mar. 21 8856